

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently amended): A powder or granule composition consisting of comprising:

(a) L-ascorbic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and

(b) a binder consisting of about 0.1 to about 10% by weight of pectin, calculated based on the total weight of the composition thereof.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Original): A composition according to claim 1 wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of L-ascorbic acid is sodium ascorbate.

4. (Original): A composition according to claim 1 wherein the pectin is a citrus pectin.

5. (Original): A composition according to claim 1 wherein the pectin is present in the composition at about 0.5% to about 5% by weight, calculated based on the total weight of the composition.

6. (Original): A composition according to claim 5 wherein the pectin is present in the composition at about 0.5% to about 2% by weight, calculated based on the total weight of the composition.

7. (Original): A composition according to claim 1 wherein the composition consists of 95-99% by weight of L-ascorbic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and 5-1% by weight of pectin.

Claim 8. (Currently amended): A compressed tablet formed from a powder or granule composition consisting of comprising:

(a) L-ascorbic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and

(b) a binder consisting of about 0.1 to about 10% by weight of pectin, based on the total weight of the composition; and

(c) a lubricant or mixture of lubricants.

Claim 9. (Cancelled).

Claim 10. (Currently amended): A compressed tablet according to claim 8 wherein the lubricant or a mixture of lubricants are selected from the group consisting of stearic acid, a magnesium salt of stearic acid, a calcium salt of stearic acid, and glyceryl behenate 45 (Compritol 888 ATO).

Claim 11. (Currently amended): A compressed tablet according to claim 8 wherein the lubricant or a mixture of lubricants is present in the tablet in an amount of about 0.5 to 4% by weight, calculated based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 12. (Cancelled).

Claim 13. (Cancelled).

Claims 14-21. (Withdrawn).

Claim 22. (Previously added): A powder or granule for making tablets comprising:

(a) L-ascorbic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and

(b) about 0.1 to about 10% by weight of pectin binder, calculated based on the total weight of the composition thereof, the composition having a compressibility superior to a composition comprising L-ascorbic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and about 0.1 to about 10% by weight of a standard binder.

Claim 23. (Previously added): A composition according to claim 22 further comprising about 0.1 to 10% by weight of an adjuvant and/or an excipient calculated based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 24. (Previously added): A composition according to claim 22 wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of L-ascorbic acid is sodium ascorbate.

Claim 25. (Previously added): A composition according to claim 22 wherein the pectin is a citrus pectin.

Claim 26. (Previously added): A composition according to claim 22 wherein the pectin is present in the composition at about 0.5% to about 5% by weight, calculated based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 27. (Previously added): A composition according to claim 26 wherein the pectin is present in the composition at about 0.5% to about 2% by weight, calculated based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 28. (Previously added): A composition according to claim 22 wherein the composition consists of 95-99% by weight of L-ascorbic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and 5-1% by weight of pectin.

Claim 29. (Previously added): A compressed tablet formed from a powder or granule composition comprising:

(a) L-ascorbic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and

(b) about 0.1 to about 10% by weight of pectin binder, based on the total weight of the composition,
the composition having a compressibility superior to a composition comprising L-ascorbic acid and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and about 0.1 to about 10% by weight of a standard binder.

Claim 30. (Previously added): A compressed tablet according to claim 29 further comprising a lubricant or a mixture of lubricants.

Claim 31. (Previously added): A compressed tablet according to claim 30 wherein the lubricant or a mixture of lubricants are selected from the group consisting of stearic acid, a magnesium salt of stearic acid, a calcium salt of stearic acid, and glyceryl behenate 45 (Compritol 888 ATO).

Correct
Claim 32. (Previously added): A compressed tablet according to claim 30 wherein the lubricant or a mixture of lubricants is present in the tablet in an amount of about 0.5 to 4% by weight, calculated based on the total weight of the composition.

Claim 33. (Previously added): A compressed tablet according to claim 29 further comprising an excipient.

Claim 34. (Previously added): A compressed tablet according to claim 33 wherein the excipient is selected from the group consisting of dextrinized sucrose (Di Pac Sugar), microcrystalline cellulose, and starch.
